

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 TRSE-00 STR-08 RSC-01

AGR-20 /060 R

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APPROVED BY: EB/OCA/REP:GPWILSON

COM/BDC/462/CALEWIS, ACT DIR

COM/BDC/462/LKUPPER

STATE/EB/ORF/ICD/ISM:DFMEYERS

INTERIOR/MBM/IA:LNAHAI (INFO)

STATE/EA/J:DGBROWN

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R 242108Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 160744

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE TINPLATE EXPORTS TO U.S.

DEMAND FOR U.S. TIN MILL PRODUCTS HAS INCREASED SHARPLY OVER RECENT MONTHS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR METAL CONTAINERS BY U.S. FOOD PROCESSORS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE PEAK PACKING SEASON EXTENDING FROM JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER OF 1974, AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN THE IMPORT OF TINPLATE USED PRIMARILY IN METAL CONTAINER PRODUCTION.

DOMESTIC TINPLATE PRODUCERS ARE BEING URGED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL TINPLATE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR FOOD CAN PRODUCTION.

TOTAL U.S. IMPORTS OF TINPLATE FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1974 AMOUNTED TO 140,000 SHORT TONS, OR 34 PERCENT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO. OF THIS, THE JAPANESE SHARE
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WAS 107,000 TONS, REFLECTING A 20 PERCENT DECLINE FROM THE

RESPECTIVE 1973 PERIOD.

ACCORDING TO A CURRENT RUMOR, CONDITIONS ARE NOW MORE FAVORABLE FOR INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF TINPLATE TO THE U.S. FROM ABROAD BECAUSE OF SUCH FACTORS AS A SOFTENING OF TINPLATE MARKETS OVERSEAS, THE DESIRE TO OBTAIN MORE HARD CURRENCY, AND GREATER COMPARABILITY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FOREIGN PRICE FOR TINPLATE, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE NEXT INCREASE IN U.S. TIN MILL PRICES ANNOUNCED FOR EARLY AUGUST, WHEN PRICES ARE SCHEDULED TO ADVANCE AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 5 PERCENT.

EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED TINPLATE SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. FROM JAPAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1974 WOULD BE MOST HAOPFUL IN DETERMINING POTENTIAL SUPPLY AVAILABILITY. IF EMBASSY HAS ANY INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OR LEVELS OF JAPANESE TINPLATE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. DURING JUNE AND THUS FAR IN JULY 1974, THIS WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST.

REPLY REQUESTED SOONEST. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, TIN, CONTAINERS, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE160744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COM/LOUIS KUPPER, C AND FP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740201-0333
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740720/aaaaarhw.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE TINPLATE EXPORTS TO U.S. DEMAND FOR U.S. TIN MILL PRODUCTS HAS INCREASED SHARPLY OVER
TAGS: ECON, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005